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## Assessing a Failure

The Kennedy administration has won the support of leading Republicans for his efforts to restore freedom in Cuba, and is now assessing the blame for failure of the anti-Castro revolution, in the hope of recouping America's prestige.

Broadly, there were two clear reasons for the failure — bad intelligence and the nature of communism.

For the first, the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington is being blamed and it is said that "heads will roll." The CIA was responsible for the U-2 incident which proved very embarrassing to the United States. It was responsible for U.S. withdrawal of support for Souvanna Phouma's neutralist regime in Laos because he sent a mission to Moscow (probably trying to work both sides of the street). It appears that Allen Dulles, chief of the CIA, was cooperating with the anti-Castro forces before the inauguration of President Kennedy. This was one of the factors that caused Mr. Kennedy to keep him in office.

Overshadowing the intelligence blunders is the manner in which the Communists operate. Once they gain power, they proceed immediately to make themselves invulnerable. They do this by spending vast sums for arms and propaganda. Then begins a rigid course of indoctrinating the young in Communist ideals.

No Communist state has ever been overthrown after being in power for more than a year. Communist regimes in Guatemala (1954) and Hungary (1919 under Bela Kun) were ousted before they had a chance to build up power.

Gen. Maxwell Taylor, who is exploring the U.S. possibilities of guerrilla warfare, will find that there was no mystery about the defeat of the anti-Castro forces. Their only chance of winning was cooperation from Castro's own troops. He had indoctrinated them too well for that.

We could topple Cuba quickly with the kind of power we used in World War II, but that would increase the risk of a general war. So as things stand the Communists are far ahead. Cuba is still theirs. They will talk sweetly for a while in the hope of inducing Washington to let the Cuban Reds alone. There will be a coalition government in Laos, with the Reds participating and waiting for the chance to seize complete control.

The double-standard serves the Communists well. They demand the right to extend their power by revolution but deny anyone the right to take anything from them, by the democratic process or otherwise. President Kennedy and former President Eisenhower no doubt reflected bitterly on this state of affairs in their weekend conference. Mr. Kennedy has said that U.S. restraint is not inexhaustible. Insofar as the American people are concerned, that was understating it.